

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIV.....No. 319

## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—(HOOVER DISCOVERY)

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and Broadway.—Afternoon and evening performances.

ROBERTS' THEATRE, 23rd street, between 5th and 6th avenues.—THE VAN WINKLE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 14th street.—THE

WIDOW WEDDING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE THREE PART

MEN—FAMILY JAM.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 42nd street.—EAST LYNNE.

CENTRAL PARK GARDEN, 7th ave., between 58th and 60th streets.—POPULAR GARDEN CONCERT.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 231 Broadway.—COMO

THEATRE, 231 Broadway.—COMO

HOOVER'S THEATRE, Broadway.—HOOVER'S

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Springfield, and Dr. H. F. Campbell, of Pennsylvania, are at the Coleman House.

Captain I. P. Ferguson, of the United States Navy, and Hiram Bliss, of Maine, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

## Prominent Departures.

Judge Dunlevy and Colonel Lashell, for Long Branch; Colonel S. Taylor, for Baltimore; Major W. A. Allison, for Philadelphia; M. C. Aguila, for Cuba, and Dr. G. N. Feilen, for Boston.

## Cuba and the Administration.

The interchange of compliments between General Sikes and Marshal Serrano on the official presentation of the credentials of the former as Minister to Spain have been reported by telegraph. Save the commonplace assurances of continued good feeling and cordial relations nothing transpired during the ceremony to predicate an opinion in regard to the management of the Cuban question. What special instructions our Minister may be entrusted with and how he proposes to deal with the important subject remain among the secrets of diplomacy to be revealed in the future. In the meantime any consideration of the question leads one, in default of other information, to accept as a basis of settlement the reported policy of the administration. This is to induce Spain to sell Cuba to the Cubans, and the United States to become guarantee for the payment of the sum of money agreed upon. This, as a matter of course, presumes that the Cubans would like to purchase. Considered in a humane point of view this arrangement is no doubt very desirable as an effective means for putting an end to the revolting scenes of crime and carnage that have characterized the war. We have previously expressed the opinion that such a policy possessed the advantages of practicality and might prove the best that could be pursued under existing circumstances. The progress of events, as developed in late accounts from Cuba, justifies the belief that the revolution is growing in strength and will be continued just so long as the Spaniards may see fit to attempt the subjugation of the patriots. Indeed, there seems to be absolutely little or no chance for Spain to maintain authority over the island; and the ultimate independence of Cuba may be accepted as inevitable by the authorities at Madrid, since it is regarded as no very remote contingency by the resident Spaniards on the "Ever Faithful Isle." Stubborn as Spain may be to this sacrifice of national pride, and however loath she may feel to surrender a possession from which she has long derived an enormous revenue, the utter hopelessness of the struggle must become apparent to the government and will doubtless operate powerfully in influencing a decision to sell for a handsome price to pay endorsed by the United States.

But supposing Spain concludes to accept a proposition to sell coming from our government, there are other questions and conditions which it would be well for the administration of General Grant to consider. The first and most important one is, do the Cubans desire to make purchase of a country to which they hope ere long, and with very flattering prospects, to make good their claim to ownership by the force of arms? After the sacrifices already made, the progress towards a consummation of the end for which they are struggling, and the assurances of triumph at no distant day, the patriots of Cuba may reasonably conclude that the additional cost of blood and treasure necessary for the completion of the work of independence is preferable to a compromise which involves an immense debt to Spain and perhaps other conditions equally embarrassing to the United States. Whatever may be the relation of free Cuba to our country—whether the Cubans are striving for early annexation or not—we must appreciate a sentiment which would prefer that the election of such relation be voluntary and spontaneous, unembarrassed by outside pressure or the obligations arising from a surety contract to this government.

We are not prepared to state whether or not the administration, if the reported policy above mentioned be really true, took occasion to consult the agents of Céspedes in regard to the proposed purchase; but it is quite probable, from the manner in which General Grant and Cabinet have been treating the Cuban difficulty, and inasmuch as neither the belligerent rights nor the official authority of the representatives of the patriots have been openly recognized, that they would not take the trouble to ascertain their wishes in regard to any projected scheme, and are acting simply upon their own responsibility. If such be the case the question arises would it not be as well to negotiate for the direct acquisition of the island by the United States? Proud Spain would surely feel less humiliated in selling to us than to the Cubans; and as "the United States now more than ever appreciate the traditional amity of Spain, as animated by new sympathies and a common participation in constitutional liberty," what would tend more to "increase the amity so happily existing between the two peoples" than a transaction implying a national obligation to the extent of a respectable number of millions, relieving the Spanish government of the hopeless task of subjugating the insurgents and replenishing a suffering exchequer?

Another subject for the consideration of the administration, in the event of the Cubans desiring to purchase and Spain consenting to sell, may be found in the possible future annexation of the island to the United States, and the probable condition of that annexation being the assumption of the debt to Spain. Or, in case of inability or failure to pay on the part of Cuba, would not our government require a cession of the island as indemnification for purchase money to be paid to Spain? Such are a few of the questions suggested by the "reported policy" of the administration. Lastly, we submit, may it not be as well to await the result of the revolution before either attempting to purchase ourselves or becoming surety for others? Our national debt is quite large enough without increasing it by assuming a promise to pay for that which in due time will come to us without money and without price.

Whatever be the result of the instructions given to General Sikes in regard to the action of our government, it is our duty to see that the contest in Cuba, if continued, shall be conducted on more humane principles, and, above all, steps should be taken to protect the rights of our citizens and prevent those outrageous executions occurring too often without trial and without crime on the part of the sufferers.

## The Spanish Gunboats.

The course taken by the government in regard to the Spanish gunboats indicates plainly a spirit of fairness toward Spain that ought to soften the asperity with which her agents here might naturally receive the announcement of the purpose of the administration. Spain and Peru are quite equal before us and have the same claims in regard to our neutrality. Spain was herself the first to appeal to our laws to prevent the sailing of ships. Her war with Peru, though in a practical state of abeyance, made her especially careful in regard to the armed forces of that nation, and when certain vessels were bought here for the Peruvian government the protest of the Spanish authorities prevented their sailing, and they finally did not sail, except on a sort of parole, our government exacting a guarantee that they should not be used against the power of Spain. Exactly what our government then did, on the application of Spain herself, it now does for Peru. Although nominally the Spanish vessels are seized, they are, in fact, only under the surveillance of the law. Thus those charged with their construction are left unembarrassed and the building and equipment of the ships go on. So that when the Spanish government has given sufficient evidence that these vessels are not intended for use against any Power with which we are at peace, it will be found that the action of our government has not caused a day's loss of time. Our hope for the interest of Cuba, however, is that in the meantime the administration, putting itself in full sympathy with the national sentiment on the subject, will see the propriety of recognizing the rights of the Cubans, and then if Spain gives guarantees that compel the withdrawal of the protest entered by Peru, the Cuban government may take the place of Peru and enter another protest. Spain would then only have to lament the inconvenience to a nation of having on its hands more than one war at a time.

THE TENNESSEE ELECTION.—The election returns from Tennessee received at a late hour last night indicate a democratic triumph in the vote for Governor and members of the Legislature. Returns from Memphis, Nashville and Germantown give Senter a majority generally, and state that Messrs. Slaughter, Etheridge, Cooper and Balile Peyton were elected to the State Senate. A most gratifying point of the news is that the contest passed off quietly and that all the refreshment saloons were closed during the day.

THE IRISH CHURCH IN DISREPUTATION.—The prelates of the Irish Church meet the serious crisis inaugurated by the disestablishment legislation of the English Parliament with devotional courage and as brave men. Instead of sitting down in lamentation over their altered fortunes they are likely to bestir themselves in missionary effort. The bishops have called a General Synod, to assemble in Dublin, in which the Episcopacy, the clergy and the laity, will be fully represented. Provincial synods will also be held. The local changes absolutely necessary in consequence of the action of Parliament and the Crown will be debated and adopted if approved. This is in the right spirit. Thrown off by the State, the Church will find support in the ranks of an ardent and still wealthy laity, and will, no doubt, in a very short time commence her first free and unembarrassed missionary effort in Ireland. The movement is quite important and the Irish Church Synod may contain the germ of an ecclesiastical offset to the great Ecumenical Council in Rome.

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The country demands the early recognition of the belligerent rights of the Cubans, and it depends upon the administration whether the revolution be long or short. Recognition will at once expedite the end; failure to do so will only prolong the struggle and impoverish the country without preventing the consummation of the independence of Cuba.

## Insolvency of "Fireproof" Buildings.

The disastrous fire which occurred in Philadelphia on Wednesday night, destroying some millions of dollars' worth of property and causing a loss of life the full extent of which is not yet officially ascertained, suggests two or three thoughts which may prove of importance, if people who construct buildings, either for domestic or business purposes, will reflect upon them and put them to advantage. In the first place we would venture the opinion that those bonded warehouses, which were said to be "fireproof," were not really fireproof at all. If they were they would certainly not have burned up like tinder, as it appears they did—the fireproof compartments and eighteen-inch walls all crumbling away, "as if made of wood." The iron doors and shutters it seems offered no resistance at all to the devouring element. The terrible result proves that the building in which the fire originated and gained mastery over the combined efforts of all the fire companies had not the saving properties which we usually attach to a fireproof building. It may be said that the combustible material stored in the bonded warehouse was so immense in quantity that no building could resist its explosive power; but that only proves the truth of what we desire emphatically to state here, that it is an egregious and a wicked crime to store large quantities of explosive materials in any one building in the centre of a populous city. Here, it seems, there were twenty-five thousand barrels of whiskey—enough to demoralize all Philadelphia—and a quantity of petroleum, alcohol "and other highly combustible material." What wonder, then, that a fire occurring under such circumstances in a locality surrounded by ship chandleries, junk shops, sailors' boarding houses and other shanties, should have spread from block to block, devouring all in its course? But what shall be said of the discretion or humanity of those who piled up all this inflammable material in such a place?

We hope that there is a lesson and a warning in this sad calamity that may prevent in future this too prevalent custom of crowding dangerous combustibles into a single building. They should either be stored outside the limits of the city altogether, or divided up into such small quantities at various points as would afford a reasonable guarantee for public safety.

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## Egypt and Turkey—Coming Complications.

We have on several occasions when discussing the question of the Suez Canal and the results to flow from it pointed out the difficulties that must arise between the Sublime Porte and the Pacha of Egypt. The news published yesterday from Constantinople shows that these difficulties are arising and that a conflict is not improbable unless prevented by the great European Powers. The Sultan sees, evidently, that the opening of the Suez Canal will develop a modern empire on the old historic ground of Egypt, and from the grand ovations to Ismail Pacha at the courts of Europe, together with the course of the Viceroy generally, he apprehends that Egypt may become independent of Turkish rule. Hence we learn that an aide-de-camp of the Grand Vizier is about to proceed to Egypt, bearing a letter to the Viceroy, recounting the grievances of the Sublime Porte and intimating that the Porte will withdraw the privileges accorded by the firman of 1841. That is to say, unless Ismail takes in his ambitious sails and steers more humbly in obedience to the will and policy of the Sultan, the grant of quasi independence accorded to the viceroyalty under the family of Mehmet Ali will be revoked. That is the meaning, evidently. But the question arises, will Ismail do as he is required? And should he not, will the Sultan venture to make war on him? The Powers of Europe will have, undoubtedly, something to say in the matter, and this question may soon become a complicated and an interesting one. This time, we think, the "Sick Man of the East" may not have the support of France and England, but will have to yield to the exigencies and progress of events. The Suez Canal will lead, probably, to a great deal of diplomatic maneuvering and action, if not to war, with regard to the future of Egypt and its sovereignty.

BANKERS AND INTERNAL REVENUE RETURNS.—Notices have been served on most of the Wall street bankers who reside in Brooklyn, of suits to be commenced against them in the United States Courts, in order to recover fines for failing to make the required monthly returns of capital and business. All right. The claims that the bankers oppose to making these returns prove too much if they prove anything. Everybody else, as well as the bankers, has to affix stamps to receipts, and if their transactions are merely fictitious they are not entitled to exemption, but, on the contrary, they are liable to arrest.

CIRCUMLOCUTION.—The Sanitary Superintendent is authorized to spend one hundred dollars a month in procuring evidence with a view to the prosecution of parties who sell an explosive article for kerosene, but the Board does not prosecute those against whom it has already evidence; and in the meantime a woman or child is burned to death every day and seventeen per cent of our city fires originate in the explosions of these fluids.

RUSSIA ON THE QUI VIVE.—The Czar is determined that Russia shall no longer be reckoned among the backward nations, and lately he has given many proofs of his desire that his country shall keep up with the progress of the present era. Being well aware of the immense advantages that may accrue to his dominions in the event of the successful termination of the Suez Canal, he has despatched a special agent to Suez for the sole purpose of studying the development of commerce for the first six months after the opening. Should the enterprise realize the hopes of its promoters the benefits arising to Southern Europe are self-evident. A direct trade to the far East, combined with facilities of railroad communication throughout the empire, will soon give an importance to the ports of the Black Sea that has never before been experienced.

DANGEROUS COUNTERFEITS.—The new ten dollar counterfeit greenbacks are, it is said, executed in such good imitation of the genuine ones that professional experts can hardly detect the difference. We wonder how the public can be expected to do so, or how it is altogether just to make a bona fide acceptor in such a case the loser. Now that the engraving and signatures have been so well imitated, it remains with the government to manufacture a special paper for this purpose, the possession of which by outside parties should be made a felony. These counterfeiters are not only a loss to the Treasury, but a constant source of annoyance and distrust to men in business. Let the Treasury Department look to it and devise some remedy.

WHAT A LOSS!—"The burning whiskey ran into the sewers," says the report of the Philadelphia fire. Hereupon the Bohemians of our city may mourn with the sorrow of the melancholy Frenchman who complained that when it rained snow his plate was always upside down. If these fellows had any luck they would all have been in Philadelphia the night when the gutters ran with whiskey.

FIVE THOUSAND IMMIGRANTS landed at this port in the month of July, making one hundred and sixty-eight thousand for the year thus far. This is thirty-five thousand more than were landed up to the same time last year.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT cannot do better for the future of his kingdom and the assurance of his own absolute sovereignty than to fight the Sultan on a quarrel which puts England and France behind him as the potentate of the East most disposed to concede what the West calls for.

WHAT THE SPANISH SAY.—The defender and organ of the Spanish government in this city cries out against the seizure of the Spanish Armada, because by this act all the men at work building these vessels are thrown out of employment. As this is the worst it says, and as this is not true, the Spanish side of the question is not sustained with much effect.

CONCERTS with cool surroundings of the open air are the only sort of entertainment endurable in the August evenings, and these can make the city pleasant in the dog days, all of which is shown and seen at the Central Park Gardens, where they have the hundredth concert to-night.

"THE MOST DIFFICULT THING POSSIBLE."—It is reported that the President of the Police Board has said that "the most difficult thing possible" is to find a patrolman at his place on duty. If this is true who is to blame?

## Opera Bouffe Journalism.

We have referred several times to the anecdotes with which some of our contemporaries disguised, falsified and burlesqued every fact of the daily news in their efforts to make it funny, and we have especially pointed out that their triumph in thus assimilating journalism to opera bouffe was so distinct that nobody could believe a word they said, and that they were thus worthless as newspapers. One of these papers made the Board of Health reports the vehicle of this excessive humor, and here is what the President of that Board consequently has to say of its report—a report supposed by the public to be a statement of facts:—

Dr. Crane wished to be heard on a question of privilege. It was in reference, he said, to a statement which he observed in the New York Sun. The statement was one of error and falsehood, and one which, it seemed to him, compromised in a certain sense the good name and reputation of this Board. Dr. Crane said he did not know, gentlemen, that it is necessary to enter into any remarks with regard to this beyond a simple statement that I have before this Board pronounced such a report of our proceedings as unqualifiedly false, and I call on every member of this Board to endorse me in this action. He then having finished before the Board except in the line of official duty, and I consider the falsehoods of the report very much in keeping with the late lying and sensational character of the paper.

What the President says of the opera bouffe report of his Board may be said of all the reports of the opera bouffe journals.

## Portugal in Favor of Submarine Cables.

The success of the French cable has no doubt stimulated the Portuguese Chambers to unwelcome activity, as they have adopted a resolution authorizing the government to grant concessions to companies desiring to lay submarine cables to or from Portugal. We hope this is an indication that we are soon to have another of those ocean telegraphs connecting us with Europe. The little kingdom of Portugal, now so fallen, but which in the fifteenth century gave such an impulse to every species of maritime enterprise as hastened the discovery of this continent, is placed in the same latitude with ourselves, and is the nearest point to us of European territory. Were a cable stretched under the ocean between Long Island and Oporto the distance to be crossed would not be much greater than that between Brest and Newbury; although perhaps a better route would be from some point further south in Portugal, passing by Fayal or St. Michael, in the Azores, and thence to Baltimore. The more competition we have the better will it be for commerce and civilization, and shareholders need not fear, were there a dozen such cables lying at the bottom of the Atlantic; there is commercial spirit enough in a great country like this not to suffer any one of them to prove unprofitable.

ANOTHER CONFIDENCE GAME.—It is hardly surprising that a respectably dressed young man has been able to get a great deal of money by calling at houses and collecting the rent in the name of the landlord. It is indeed rather surprising that the game is not followed with more system. By the present plan of letting houses through agents it often happens that tenant and landlord never meet at all to make one another's acquaintance till rent is due, and then the tenant is as likely to pay it to a swindler as to the right man. Perhaps the success of the young man now in custody will put people on their guard.

SPARKLING AND BRIGHT IN LIQUID LIGHT, ETC.—Drinkers of champagne who would like to know all about the sparkle and the liquid light, and so on, should note that in a recent seizure of a champagne making establishment the articles found on hand were four barrels of common white wine, one barrel of molasses and one barrel of vitriol.

THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES should push to the utmost extreme their right in the tax on bankers and brokers, for it is just possible that in the imposition of that tax lies the solution of a question that has been a great trouble to our lawmakers—how to prevent the fictitious or gambling operations of Wall Street.

## MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL NOTES.

This will be a gala night at the Central Park Garden, being the hundredth concert of the season, which is also made the occasion of a grand testimonial benefit to Theodore Thomas. A programme of unexceptionable excellence has been prepared. Mr. Thomas deserves the hearty encouragement and support of every lover of music for his exertions in the cause of divine art. To him principally are we indebted for the great amount of music in this city. Let him have a bumper this evening.

Mr. Chang-Woo-goo, the Chinese giant, who reposes his corpulent person on a sofa six inches in diameter, is at present carefully perambulating through the highways and byways of this metropolis "feeling the signs and symptoms of a cold." He is not of awe, within the breast of such pigmy gothamites as he coolly strides over or unceremoniously kicks out of his path just as though they were but the merest atoms and were of no earthly consequence whatever. Mr. Chang is not ferocious by any means, but he is a man of prodigious proportions, and would unquestionably be an ugly customer to handle if his "dander" was once fully aroused. In view of this fact it would be well for our citizens to exercise no more than great caution in their dealings with him. He is engaged in seeing the sights of lovely Gotham. It will be their turn next, for Mr. Chang will leave on an early day for the city of Washington, where he can be seen at the National Academy of Music. There he will be under the charge of his English agent, Mr. Edward Parlett, and will see to it that he is not molested by any of the principal citizens of Europe, and have just popped over to this side of the Atlantic to take a peep at us before returning to their loving relations in their far off country.

P. S. Gilmore, the originator and, we might say, the soul of the great Boston Jubilee, sailed for Europe on Wednesday last. Mr. Gilmore will visit the principal musical centres of the Eastern Continent, in order to make arrangements for other gigantic enterprises which he has in his mind's eye. Already he has been urged by some of the leading men in New York to give a grand musical festival in this city, and it is a scale far beyond anything that Boston has seen. He will probably be passing through the city on his way to Europe, and it is important engagements with the leading artists in Europe before his return. To such an earnest devotee of the divine art we heartily wish him every success.

## THE SPANISH GUNBOATS.

No further action has been taken by Marshal Barlow in relation to the seizure of the Spanish gunboats. Instructions are expected to-day from Secretary Fish.

Mr. Delamater, the contractor for building, is anxious about the vessels, as they will cost him \$500,000 in gold. Marshal Barlow says that the boats will not be permitted to leave their present positions until the question is changed or instructions received from their release.

## MOVEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Visit to Wall Street and Government Offices.—Arrival at Garrison's Landing.—Visit to the Residence of Secretary Fish.

The President yesterday morning received a few visits until eleven o'clock. At about half past ten he accompanied his brother-in-law, Mr. Corbin, he rode down town, visiting the government offices and Wall Street. At one o'clock he returned to Twenty-seventh street and shortly afterwards left for the North River steamer Mary Powell, which was to convey the party to Garrison's Landing, on a visit to Secretary Fish. The arrival of the President was anticipated, and a large number of persons had assembled to catch a glimpse of the Chief Magistrate of the nation. As the President passed on to the boat many of the people raised their hats and showed other evidences of respect.

It was a few minutes before three o'clock when the President and family reached the steamer Mary Powell, lying at her pier. The baggage had been sent to the steamer in advance, and consisted of three trunks, each marked "U. S. Grant, Washington, D. C."